

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and  
Human Services, and Education  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole,

Thank you for your continued leadership on issues related to substance use disorders, including the opioid crisis. As you consider fiscal year 2020 spending priorities within the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we are writing to request the highest possible funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), given its critical role in leading substance use efforts at the national level. In particular, increased funding for SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP), Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant and grants to States to address the opioid crisis will help ensure that more Americans receive the prevention, treatment, and recovery services they need.

Substance use disorders are a significant public health problem in the United States. The 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) found that 30.5 million American were currently using illicit drugs, and 16.7 million reported current heavy alcohol use. The opioid crisis continues to be the primary driver of drug-related deaths in the U.S., with nearly 50,000 of the 70,237 overdose deaths in 2017 attributed to heroin, prescription drugs, and synthetic opioids. Additionally, tobacco and alcohol use remain some of the top causes of preventable death in the United States, totaling 480,000 and 88,000 annual deaths, respectively. One major factor that contributes to these death rates is that only 14% of individuals who need treatment actually receive it.


SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) improves health through evidence-based prevention approaches. The largest program within CSAP is the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success (SPF-PFS) grant program. The SPF-PFS grant program is intended to prevent the onset and reduce the progression of substance misuse and its related problems while strengthening prevention capacity and infrastructure at the state, tribal, and community levels. The program has helped prevent and reduce consequences of underage drinking and prescription drug misuse among 12-20 year-old youth, which is important for preventing substance use later in life.

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within SAMHSA promotes community-based substance use disorder treatment and recovery services for individuals and families in every community. CSAT provides national leadership to improve access, reduce barriers, and promote high quality, effective treatment and recovery services. CSAT's MAT-Prescription Drug and Opioid Addiction (PDOA) program helps states expand or enhance their treatment systems to improve access to evidence-based MAT services, which is especially important in the midst of the current opioid crisis. CSAT's recovery-specific programs increase the prevalence and quality of long-term recovery support. CSAT's programs for pregnant and postpartum women expand family-centered services for women struggling with substance use. SAMHSA's Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Block Grant gives states the flexibility to address the most pressing substance use issues within their state lines, ultimately helping those who can't otherwise access treatment get the help that they need. These are just some of the programs within CSAT that help Americans access the treatment and recovery support services that they need.


The Subcommittee has made important investments to address the opioid crisis over the past several years through the State Targeted Response (STR) and State Opioid Response (SOR) grant programs within SAMHSA. With concern of a potential fiscal cliff that would disrupt the flow of resources specifically dedicated to the opioid crisis, we ask that you continue funding for these grants to address opioid addiction and overdose. These dollars have saved lives, and a continued investment in these grants is critical during this ongoing crisis.

We urge you to provide the highest possible funding level for SAMHSA in FY 2020. Programs administered by SAMHSA play a critical role in ensuring that Americans get the substance use services that they need, and increased investments in SAMHSA will ultimately lead to more lives saved, and a healthier population.

Sincerely,



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Max Rose  
Member of Congress



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Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



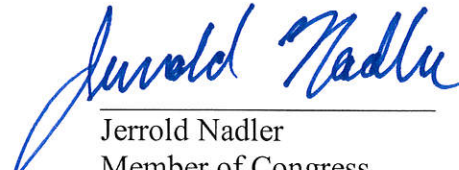
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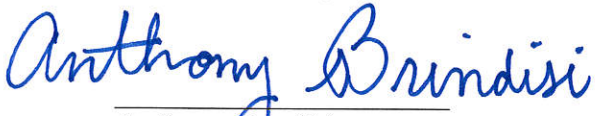
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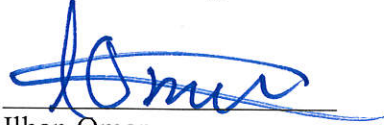
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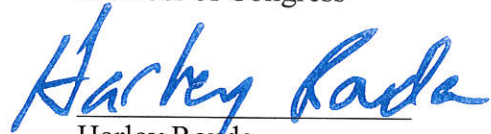
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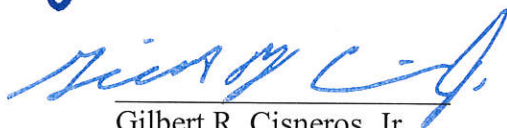
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